

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 3 FEB 50

SUBJECT Soviet Military Personnel in North Korea

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE
ACQUIREDDATE OF
INFO.NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. On 6 July 1949, a Soviet naval vessel anchored in Wonsan harbor near the premises of the Wonsan Oil Refinery.* During the night, about a dozen pieces of artillery were removed from the vessel and taken away to an undetermined place. Approximately three hundred Soviet soldiers from the vessel were billeted in the Catholic church at Myong Sok Dong (銘石洞), Wonsan. A truckload of pork and potatoes was supplied to the troops by the Wonsan Consumers' Cooperative Society, and farmers in Kalma township, An Gun (安 邊) County (Gun), were ordered by their People's Committee to pay part of their taxation in potatoes immediately, in advance of the regular date, for food for these men. On 9 July the troops departed for an unknown destination.

2. On 10 July, approximately sixty vehicles arrived in Wonsan from Manchon (127-18, 39-18) to pick up a thousand North Korean army personnel who had entered Wonsan on the previous day from an undetermined area. The vehicles came in through Ch'ol San Ni (鐵山里) and passed through the city to an assembly ground at the Chung Chon Ni (中洞里) school, a former Japanese naval officers' quarters. On 11 July, some of the vehicles loaded with troops departed in the direction of Chorwon (127-12, 38-14) and Yonchon (127-04, 38-06).

3. Eight of the vehicles were of Soviet make; the remainder were non-military Ford or Nissan trucks and heavy (military?) American-made carriers. More than half were driven by Soviet soldiers in brown coveralls, accompanied in each case by a Korean soldier in uniform.

4. After the fighting in the Kaesong (126-34, 37-58) and Pochon (127-13, 37-54) areas, South Korean troops discovered bodies of Soviet soldiers killed in the engagements. North Koreans held a funeral ceremony for these dead in the Soc and People's Theatre in Pyongyang.

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